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190927Z Jan 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
	DS-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	VCE-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	USIE-00
	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8036  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RWANDA COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000368

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

USUN FOR HOLBROOKE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/11  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [ZI](#) [CG](#)  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE PRESIDENT TO CONVENE DRC ALLIES  
MEETING NEXT WEEK

REFTEL: SECSTATE 09311

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CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, ACCOMPANIED BY POLOFF, DELIVERED REFTEL DEMARCHE TO DR. NGONI CHIDEYA, THE ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY IN ZIMBABWE'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE MORNING OF JANUARY 19. DR. CHIDEYA HAD POSTPONED THE MEETING FROM JANUARY 18. THE CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT THE USG HAS SIMILARLY URGED THE GOVERNMENTS OF UGANDA AND RWANDA TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING MILITARY ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION IN THE DRC, AND ENCOURAGED THE GOZ TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH UGANDA AND RWANDA.

2. (C) CHIDEYA RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE GOZ WILL ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE EVENTS IN THE DRC IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IF NOT TODAY. "SOON AFTER" KABILA'S STATE FUNERAL ON JANUARY 23, PRESIDENT MUGABE WILL CONVENE A HEADS OF STATE MEETING WITH THE DRC ALLIES, NAMELY ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, ACCORDING TO THE ACTING PERMSEC. IT WAS UNCLEAR FROM CHIDEYA'S ACCOUNT WHETHER JOSEPH KABILA OR DRC REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE INVITED TO THE ALLIES MEETING. ONCE THAT MEETING IS CONCLUDED, MUGABE WILL INVITE ALL THE LUSAKA SIGNATORIES TO A WIDER MEETING ON THE WAY FORWARD IN THE DRC, CHIDEYA SAID.

3. (C) CHIDEYA FURTHER STATED THAT A DRC DELEGATION OF 25 PEOPLE, INCLUDING EDUCATION MINISTER ABDOULAYE YERODIA NBOMBASI AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MOBOTO, ARRIVED IN HARARE LAST NIGHT (JANUARY 18). JUSTICE MINISTER KONGOLO AND INTERIOR MINISTER KUKUDJI REMAINED  
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IN KINSHASA, CHIDEYA REPORTED. HEALTH MINISTER MAMBA ACCOMPANIED KABILA'S BODY TO HARARE ON JANUARY 17 AND IS STILL IN TOWN, ACCORDING TO THE ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY. THE PURPOSE OF THE DELEGATION VISIT IS TO

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INFORM PRESIDENT MUGABE OF EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO KABILA, AND TO ASSIST IN RETURNING KABILA'S BODY TO THE DRC, THE ACTING PERMSEC SAID. THE ZIMBABWEAN MFA'S PROTOCOL OFFICE IS HELPING TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS. THE BODY IS DUE TO GO BACK TO KINSHASA TOMORROW, JANUARY 20, CHIDEYA CONTINUED. PRESIDENT MUGABE, ALONG WITH OTHER HEADS OF STATE, IS LIKELY TO ATTEND KABILA'S FUNERAL NEXT WEEK, THE ACTING PERMSEC ADDED.

4. (C) COMMENT: ZIMBABWE'S MFA WAS AN UNUSUAL HIVE OF ACTIVITY WITH ITS ASSISTANCE OF THE DRC DELEGATION. CHIDEYA APPEARED TO BE IN THE CENTER OF THE ACTIVITY-- UNCHARACTERISTIC FOR AN MFA OFFICIAL--AND EVEN RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM DEFENSE MINISTER MAHACHI DURING OUR

MEETING. FOREIGN MINISTER MUDENGE RETURNED WITH MUGABE FROM CAMEROON, BUT IS TRYING TO RESUME HIS INTERRUPTED LEAVE, WE WERE TOLD. FURTHERMORE, YERODIA'S PRESENCE IN HARARE MAY SUGGEST THAT HE HAS BEEN PARTLY RESURRECTED BY JOSEPH KABILA AND THAT HE IS SEEKING THE BLESSING OF ZIMBABWE FOR A MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN THE NEW CONGOLESE DISPENSATION. END COMMENT.

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